

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows (with strikethrough indicating deletions and underlining indicating additions to the amended claims):

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface, wherein the external surface defines an external surface area of the semi-permeable container;
obtaining a metallic layer;
placing the metallic layer directly against the external surface; and
melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer to fuse the external surface to the metallic layer, wherein the metallic layer covers an area on the external surface less than the external surface area so that a remainder of the external surface area is exposed, wherein the metallic layer acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the container.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic bottle.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic pharmaceutical bottle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes an IV bag.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic-wrapped food package.
presented
6. (Previously ~~Amended~~) The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling a printed layer onto the metallic layer prior to melting the at least a portion of the external surface.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the metallic layer includes metallized polyester.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having an external surface, wherein the external surface defines an external surface area of the semi-permeable container;
obtaining a metallic layer;
placing polymeric material between the external surface and the metallic layer; and
melting at least a portion of the polymeric material, wherein the metallic layer covers an area on the external surface less than the external surface area so that a remainder of the external surface area is exposed, wherein the metallic layer acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the container.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic bottle.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a pharmaceutical bottle.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes an IV bag.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a food package.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising coupling a printed layer onto the metallic layer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the melting temperature of the polymeric material is less than the melting temperature of the semi-permeable container.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the metallic layer includes metallized polyester.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a label to a pre-formed container, comprising:

cutting a metallic layer to form a metallic label;

placing the metallic label against a polymeric external surface of a pre-formed semi-permeable container;

heating the metallic label to a temperature at which at least a portion of the external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container in contact with the metallic label is melted; and

cooling the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container below the temperature to fuse the melted portion of the external surface of the semi-permeable container to the metallic label; wherein the metallic label acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the pre-formed semi-permeable container.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container are cooled below the temperature by dipping the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container into a liquid so that the metallic label and external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container contact the liquid.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the temperature is between about 80 degrees Fahrenheit and about 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the temperature is about 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a printer layer is coupled to an exterior face of the metallic label prior to the heating of the metallic label to the temperature.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein a bonding agent is provided between the printed layer and the exterior face of the metallic label to couple the printed layer to the exterior face of the metallic label.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a bonding agent is provided between a printed layer and an exterior face of the metallic label, and wherein the heating of the metallic label melts the bonding agent to couple the printed layer to the exterior face of the metallic label.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the metallic label covers only a portion of the external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container such that a remainder of the external surface of the external surface is exposed.

Please add the following new claims:

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the pre-formed semi-permeable container is not deformed during the heating of the metallic label.

32. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the pre-formed semi-permeable container is not burned during the heating of the metallic label.

33. (New) A method for applying a label to a pre-formed container, comprising:
obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface;
obtaining a metallic label capable of acting as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants;
placing the metallic label against the polymeric external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container; and
melting at least a portion of the polymeric external surface beneath the metallic label to fuse the polymeric external surface to the metallic layer, the metallic label acting as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the pre-formed semi-permeable container.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the metallic label is capable of preventing at least one of an ink and an adhesive in communication with an exterior surface of the metallic label from migrating into the pre-formed semi-permeable container and thereby help prevent contamination by the at least one of the ink and the adhesive of items contained in the pre-formed semi-permeable container.